

It is for freedom that
Christ has set us free.
Galatians 5:1

The Presbyterian *Messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Burley, Idaho July 2024

Happy Birthday America!

On July 4, 2024 we celebrate America's 248th birthday. A humorous birthday card had a picture of a handsome Labrador Retriever on the front. Inside the Lab barks:

Forget about the past.
you can't change it.
Forget about the future.
you can't predict it.
Forget about the present.
I didn't get you one!

As we celebrate America's birthday, let's not forget to get her a present. The perfect gift, according to God's Word, is prayer for those individuals who are in positions of leadership in government. In First Timothy 2:1-3 Paul writes:

*The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. **I Tim. 2:1-3****

When Paul wrote these words the Roman governmental leader was Nero. According to the reporters and news journalists of the time (historians), Nero was a moral degenerate. He was an egotistical, self-centered, puffed-up, corrupt leader. A man who viewed power as a means to enrich himself.

Yet, Paul commands 1st century Christians (and us) to pray for those in positions of political leadership. We are to pray for the Neros, the Nero-like, and all political leaders. Now, praying for specific individuals doesn't mean we agree with all their policies and positions on issues.

In the words of Lon Fendall, former assistant to U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield, "It is to cover that person with the love of Jesus, and to pray that their actions would be just and righteous."

So what do we pray for? Here is a very short list. Pray that our leaders will:

1. Be wise

*When the country is in chaos,
everybody has a plan to fix it—
But it takes a leader of real understanding
to straighten things out. **Proverbs 28:2****

2. Be servant leaders

*When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage." **Mark 10:41-45****

More could be written. While we're praying for wise servant leaders, let's pray for personal wisdom in choosing our leaders.

*In Jesus Love,
Pastor John*

A declaration of interdependence

"Dependence does not destroy human personality," writes Donald F. Baillie. Instead, people are "never so fully and so truly personal as when [they are] living in complete dependence upon God." Jesus modeled this type of living by depending completely on his heavenly Father.

In that light, let it be declared and hereby celebrated ...

- That all people everywhere depend on one another.
- That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love and happiness.
- That all things in the natural order depend on everything else.
- That the Earth and all planets and stars are mutually dependent.
- That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.
- And that each individual part of this relationship has its own role in fulfilling God's plan.



Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom** — "For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God's kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others. —Heidi Mann

Big-Hearted Giving

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give.
2 Corinthians 9:7*

At the after-school Bible club where my wife Sue serves once a week, the kids were asked to donate money to help children in the war-torn country of Ukraine. About a week after Sue told our eleven-year-old granddaughter Maggie about the project, we got an envelope in the mail from her. It contained \$3.45, along with a note: "This is all I have for the kids in Ukraine. I'll send more later."

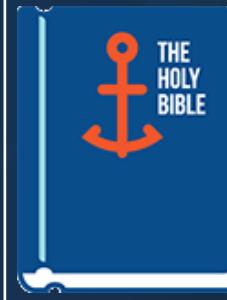
Sue hadn't suggested to Maggie that she should help, but perhaps the Spirit prompted her. And Maggie, who loves Jesus and seeks to live for Him, responded.

We can learn a lot as we think of this small gift from a big heart. It mirrors some instructions about giving provided by Paul in 2 Corinthians 9. First, the apostle suggested that we should sow "generously" (v. 6). A gift of "all I have" is certainly a generous one. Paul also wrote that our gifts should be given cheerfully as God leads and as we're able, not because we're "under compulsion" (v. 7). And he mentioned the value of "gifts to the poor" (v. 9) by quoting Psalm 112:9.

When an opportunity to give presents itself, let's ask how God wants us to respond. When we're generous and cheerful in directing our gifts to those in need as He leads us, we give in a way that "will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). That's big-hearted giving!

By Dave Branom

Stay anchored



Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future. —Ulysses S. Grant

One or the other

Either we trust in God, and in that case we neither trust in ourselves, nor in our fellow-men, nor in circumstances, nor in anything besides; or we do trust in one or more of these, and in that case do not trust in God. —George Müller

Session Highlights

Greetings from the Session,

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Pastor John lighted the Christ Candle, gave a short meditation, and opened the meeting with prayer. Quorum present. The docket approved by acclamation.

Clerks Report: Membership report: 58 Members, after losing our longtime friend/member Elizabeth Sensenbaugh, She will be greatly missed! Communion was served to 32, June 2, 2024. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by consent.

Pastor John reported: he needed pulpit supply on July 7, and Michael Barrett will be in the pulpit on July 14. The Memorial for Elizabeth Sensenbaugh will be held on August 23 at 11:00 am, at our church. The Elders met with Jeanetta Fortier about Church membership, it was approved. The Memorial for Don and Marianne Bohon was well attended, and their daughters, Diana Farrell and Dr. Stephanie Bohon took part in the Memorial. Dr. Paul Pugh and Carleen Clayville assisted. Baptism will be held for Sydnee Cottom and Kelly Hohnstein on Sunday, June 16. It was approved by Session.

Deacon's are actively doing their Deacon Duties. They are planning a Bunco Game, TBA.

Christian Ed and Worship: Pulpit supply needed for July 7, no Sunday School June, July, and August. Presbytery meeting, Idaho Falls, July 13th. General Assembly convenes SLC, UT 6/25-7/4. Pastor John's 6-month contract through end of 2024, Sandra made the motion, Dale 2nd, It was approved by consent.

Pastor search committee: – still searching.

Finance report: June Tithes: \$5,289.00 June Expenses: \$7,760.00. YTD Tithes: \$35,346.00 YTD Expenses: \$34,251.92. First Quarter of Mission is paid. A motion was made by Dale to move \$2,500.00 from the Covenant Outside Fund to the checking account to cover mowing and yard expenses, 2nd by Dan, approved by consent.

Fellowship: Upcoming – Cupcake Sunday, Father's Day, sandwich luncheon after worship.

Building & Grounds:

Sanctuary/Fellowship lighting is complete Pavilion has been painted by the Boy Scouts. Handicap parking still needs to be painted. Video Surveillance signs have been posted outside. Church yard clean up and window washing has been completed. Dish Washer has been inspected and needed repairs made.

Unfinished Business: Member concerns: Darla H., Tyson G., Jerry and Hazel V., Gary H.

New Business: Clerk of Session—still needed, Dan and Carleen are doing a great job filling in. Grant Application status to be used for PSC.

Calendar items: It was voted to not meet during the month of July, next Session, August 14, 2024, 7:00pm. Outdoor Worship will be August 11 at 10:45 a.m. Meeting closed at 8:06 p.m. with a motion given by Erika and Dale 2nd, Consent. Closing prayer given by Pastor John.

Respectfully submitted by
Carleen Clayville, for Clerk of Session

Redeeming ‘wasted’ time

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: “What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! Where are my keys?”

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. “Simple phrases such as ‘Thank you, Father,’ ‘Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,’ ‘You are my resting place, Jesus’ can turn a commute into a pilgrimage,” he writes. “You needn’t leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts.”

When we do this, “the common becomes uncommon,” Lucado adds. What’s more, “wasted” time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost – your time, if not also your keys – is redeemed.

July Scriptures Lessons *from the Lectionary*

July 7 [Communion Sunday]

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48;

2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 14

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24;

Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 21

2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37;

Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28

2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14;

Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



As we celebrate our nation's heritage this month, please pray that all government leaders will work together for peace and justice around the world.



"O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain" (Katherine Lee Bates). God, thank you for bright summer skies, crops growing to feed the world and your countless other gifts.

Committees & Chairpersons

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Dale Martin

FELLOWSHIP:

Sandra Clayville

FINANCE:

Carleen Clayville

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM:

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:

Dan Shockey

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED:

Erika Wittman

DEACONS:

Linda Smith, Valerie Frazier,
Dan Wittman, Gary Hollinger,
Susi McCall, Sharon Napier
and Jeanetta Fortier
(in training)



2024 Year to Date Tithes & Expenses

May

Tithes \$5,289.00

Expenses \$7,760.52

YTD Totals

Tithes \$35,346.00

Expenses \$34,251.92

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

02 Jerry Vegwert

02 Paul & Kristi Pugh

04 Bonnie Stanley

05 Trevor Morse

09 Earl Clayville

10 Bill Frazier

13 Kacie Matlock

15 Linda Smith

17 Cynthia Fuelling

19 Tom Clayville

19 Dan & Terrie Shockey

22 Barbra Moore

24 Russell & Kathleen Morgan

25 Wanda Drew

25 Zachary Germann

25 Jose & Kathleen Rios

28 Linda Ziulkowski

God Bless Your Special Day!

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day— Office Closed General Assembly ends	5	6
7 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Communion Pulpit Supply: Paul Pugh Cupcake Sunday	8	9	10 No Session in July MEETING FREE MONTH	11 1:30pm Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12	13 10:00am Presbytery Meeting, Idaho Falls
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Michael Barrett Teaching Deacons meet	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 6:00pm Bunco Night	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 Camp Sawtooth ends	20
21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	22 Newsletter Article Deadline	23	24	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	29	30	31	July Servers ~ Thank You! Head Usher: Sharon Napier Head Greeter: Susi McCall Liturgist: 7/7 Dan S. 7/14 Gary 7/21 Dan S. 7/28 Gary Coffee Hour: 7/7 Fellowship, 7/14 _____, 7/21 _____, 7/28 _____,		

Lessons from hiking

Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being too prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps.—Janna Firestone



Presbyterian Women In The News!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 3, 2024

OUR ANNUAL ECUMENICAL BRUNCH

It will be fun, there will be food, and Fellowship!
And a great program!

Please be prepared to help with food!
Thank you for all you do to support our church!

In Christ's Service,

Carleen Clayville, Moderator.



Remember those who have not been in church in a while, and those who have moved away. Drop them a note, call them, or maybe "Friend" them on Facebook. Make sure they know they have not been forgotten.



Dear friends of Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the use of your outdoor meeting space. It was the perfect place to hold Mom's (Fran Gray) 90th birthday celebration!

Carleen was very helpful to orient us and to be there before and after the event. Pastor John made sure we were covered for garbage bags. We felt well taken care of!

May God's goodness be poured out to you!
Love & blessings,
Rod & Alisa Hibberd

Committee



FELLOWSHIP

July 6- Cupcake Sunday

Join us every Sunday for coffee, treats and fellowship.
Have a fun safe Summer.

Respectfully,
Terrie Shockey

Friendly Reminders

LOOKING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AUGUST

- 03: PW Ecumenical Brunch 10:00am
- 04: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 07: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (7—8)
- 11: Outdoor Worship
- 14: Session 7:00pm
- 17: BBQ at Frazier's
- 23: Elizabeth Sensenbaugh's Memorial 11:00am
- 27: Election Day 8am—8pm *we are a polling place

SEPTEMBER

- 01: Season of Peace begins
- 01: Communion / Cupcake Sunday
- 02: Labor Day
- 08: Michael Barrett Teaching
- 08: Sunday School Resumes
- 11: Session 7:00pm
- 14: CROP Hunger Walk 10:00am
- 15: Pulpit Supply—TBA
- 21: PW CT Planning—TBA
- 22: First Day of Autumn

OCTOBER

- 06: World Communion Sunday; Peacemaking Offering
- 06: Cupcake Sunday
- 09: Mt. Harrison Quilt Guild 2-day event (9—10)
- 09: Session 7:00pm
- 13: Michael Barrett Teaching
- 13: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- 25: Deacon Fall Yard Sale (25—26) - TBA
- 27: Reformation Sunday

Reports

FINANCE REPORT

Well, July is starting out very hot! We hope you have a little shade to sit under. Ever wonder what happens to our church when members go on vacation in the summer? The expenses continue to happen, the grass needs cut, the building still uses electricity, and on and on. Please don't forget that our church still needs you to attend as often as you can, those of us left behind, miss you! Please attend as often as you can, and remember to send in your support as often as you can!

TODAY'S PASSAGE CONTAINS THREE LESSONS ON STEWARDSHIP FROM 1 CRONICLES 28:1-29:30:

First, we give for the future to be built beyond us (28:8).

Second, leaders give first as an example to all (29:6). And third, what we give is out of God's abundance to us (29:14).

What difference do these principles make in our relationship to money, and how we give to God?

Good question!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Your Finance Team

Praise for God's handiwork

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare your glory,
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.
In your love you have given us the power
to behold the beauty of your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome
might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak your wondrous will.
In your goodness you have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that you are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all creation.

—from *Earth Prayers*

PASTOR:
Rev. John L. Ziulkowski

Pastor's office hours:
Wednesdays 9:00am—1:00pm
(also available by appointment)

Pastor's Email: lrzski@yahoo.com
Pastor's cell phone: 208-430-5359

Office Administrator: Barbra Moore
Office Hours Tue—Fri 9am—2pm
Office phone: 678-5131
Office email: office@burleypres.org

Clerk of Session:
Director of Music: Dr. Paul Pugh
Pianist: Susan McGee, Susi McCall, Linda Ziulkowski
Flutist: Linda Ziulkowski
Nursery Attendant:
Custodian: Linda Culley
Prayer Chain: Susan McGee 208-312-3864

Service Times:
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

*The Presbyterian Messenger and
The Lord's Day Bulletin are published by
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Please submit your Newsletter items by the
15th of the month and Bulletin items by Wednesday.*

First Presbyterian Church (USA)
2100 Burton Avenue
Burley ID 83318

Visit us on the web at:
www.burleypres.org



"Wait on the LORD; be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart;
wait, I say, on the LORD."

Psalms 27:14

July 2024

Our Mission Statement

- To proclaim the Word of God to its members.
- To be a place where the community at large is invited to hear God's Word and join in fellowship with the members in the worship of God.
- To minister to its members in time of sorrow, illness, hurt, confusion, or uncertainty and encourage their faith in God, and His son Jesus Christ, during these troubling times.
- To be a haven for the larger community, where people who are troubled can receive support, encouragement, and be led to faith in God and our savior, Jesus Christ.
- To joyfully worship God together, to encourage youth and young adult members to come together with older members to get to know each other, and to develop mutual respect.
- To be known outside of our membership as a place where people of all ages can come together and find meaningful worship of God.

In these days of confusion in our society about what is morally good and right and true; the Session of this congregation, unanimously affirms the following beliefs which we publicly profess:

1. That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the only way of salvation.
2. That Holy Scripture (the Bible) is the Triune God's revealed Word, the church's only infallible rule of faith and life.
3. That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life. This includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman.